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tains a delicacy of sentiment, and a sweetness of expression, which is scarcely to be met with, but in the most refined periods of society. The sentiment which prevails throughout, is that tranquility of mind which a good man enjoys, from a consciousness of the divine protection. This sentiment is finely illustrated by images which excite a correspondent disposition of mind. And it is almost impossible to read this Psalm without feeling a portion of the tranquility which it breathes. The Psalmist writes in the true spirit of the sentiment he describes. The images he introduces tend to soothe and tranquilize the mind. The fancy is transported to the calm scenes of the country, and is presented with the imagery of gentle streams, of a watchful shepherd, and a flock reposing in green pastures. The image of a shepherd and his flock, with which the Psalm opens, is not preserved throughout. But there is nothing introduced inconsistent with it. So that the imagery is quite free from confusion or perplexity.

## PARAPHRASE.

Whilst my great shepherd is for ever near,  
Say should my soul, or want, or danger  
fear?  
Where the refreshing streamlet gently  
flows  
In pastures green, he leads me to repose.  
He heals my soul, bids all my sorrows  
cease,  
And gently guides me in the paths of  
peace.  
Shielded from harm by God's peculiar  
care,  
Safe, tho' 'mid foes, the joys of life I  
share.  
When doom'd to pass through death's dark  
dreary vale,  
Yet even then, my courage shall not fail,  
Since even then, my shepherd shall be nigh,  
And with his rod and staff shall aid supply.  
Sure whilst on earth I'll still God's good-  
ness prove,  
And taste hereafter purer joys above.

W. F.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

ON THE USE OF STRAMONIUM IN THE  
ASTHMA.

IN the last London Monthly Magazine, Dr. Sims gives an account of the first introduction of Stramonium as a remedy for asthma, into England, in addition to the preceding accounts:

Some time in the year 1802, he received a specific for relieving the paroxysms of the asthma, from General Gent, who had procured it from Dr. Anderson, physician-general at Madras. Dr. Anderson had both recommended it, and used it himself. The specific is at Madras prepared from the roots of the wild purple-flowered thorn-apple, (*Datura ferax*). The roots had been cut into slips as soon as gathered, dried in the shade, and then beat into fibres resembling coarse hemp. The mode of using it was by smoking it in a pipe at the time of the paroxysm, either by itself, or mixed with tobacco, according as the patients were previously addicted to smoking or not.

Dr. Sims happened at this time to be attending a patient, labouring under phthisis pulmonalis, combined with asthma, as appeared to him from the frequent paroxysms of difficulty of breathing, not usual in pure phthisis, at an early period of the disorder. With a view of alleviating these distressing paroxysms, he recommended a trial of this remedy; the relief obtained was far beyond expectation, and, though gradually sinking under an incurable disease, this lady continued to experience great satisfaction in its use, almost to the fatal termination.

He afterwards recommended this remedy to Mr. Toulmin, surgeon of Hackney, at a time when he was much harrassed by frequent paroxysms of the asthma. He re-

ceived so much benefit from its use, that after using all the *Datura ferox* he could procure, he was obliged to have recourse to our common thorn-apple, (*Datura stramonium*), of which he had been advised to try the stalks, as the roots of this species are small and fibrous. Mr. Toulmin experienced nearly the same relief from this, as from the East Indian plant. He likewise tried the leaves, but could hardly distinguish these from tobacco, either in taste or effects. It is indeed highly probable that the *Datura ferox* and *Datura stramonium* may have nearly similar virtues, but the one may perhaps be more efficacious than the other. Mr. Toulmin has since mentioned that from his extreme dislike to tobacco, which the leaves appeared to resemble in taste, he had not made sufficient trial to ascertain their virtues; but he thinks they certainly afforded him no relief.

More care ought to be taken, (says Dr. Sims,) in the preparation of the *Stramonium* than is usually done. The stalks ought to be cut into slender slips while recent, and dried quickly. In our climate, the general direction of drying in the shade, is injurious to most herbs; the quicker they are dried the more they retain of the taste and colour, and consequently of the virtues of the fresh plant. The whole plant is frequently sold as a remedy for the asthma, but it should be generally known that the leaves and more especially the unripe capsules and seeds of the thorn-apple, are a very powerful, nay even a deleterious narcotic, if taken internally, and probably cannot, in all cases, be even smoked with impunity. The leaves appear, from Mr. Toulmin's account, not to possess the same power of allaying the asthmatic paroxysm, as the comparatively mild and innocent stalks and roots.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

AT a time when an inveterate and ever active foe threatens to destroy our admirable little islands, I was peculiarly delighted to receive a book a few days ago from a friend, wherein the great Napier of Marchiston mentions a plan of national defence, which if carried into execution to the full extent of which it appears capable, bids fair to rid us of the trouble of both Bonaparte and France. He says, "The invention, proof; and perfect demonstration geometrical, and algebraical, of a burning Mirror, which receiving of dispersed beams of the sun, doth reflect the same beams altogether united, and concurring precisely in one mathematical point, in the which point most necessarily it engendereth fire; with an evident demonstration of their error, who affirm this to be made a parabolic section. The use of this invention serveth for the burning of the enemies ships at whatever appointed distance."—Now sir, either peace must have been made at the time this invention was made public, or the British government must have been swayed by French influence, that's clear, or a plan fraught with such benefit would have been at once adopted. Tiernehauson, and Buffon, have shown what powerful effects a combination of mirrors to the size of 10 feet only produce, what would be the effect then if all the mirrors of Britain were united; a very trifling expense would construct a frame, capable of directing the rays, of all the mirrors of Britain against France, and the only inconvenience which could arise from ordering all the looking-glasses of Great Britain to be brought to Sussex, the most convenient position, would be, that the men would be obliged to go unshave.